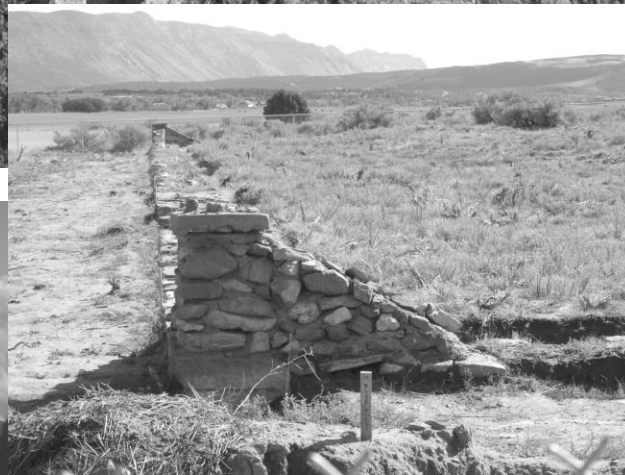
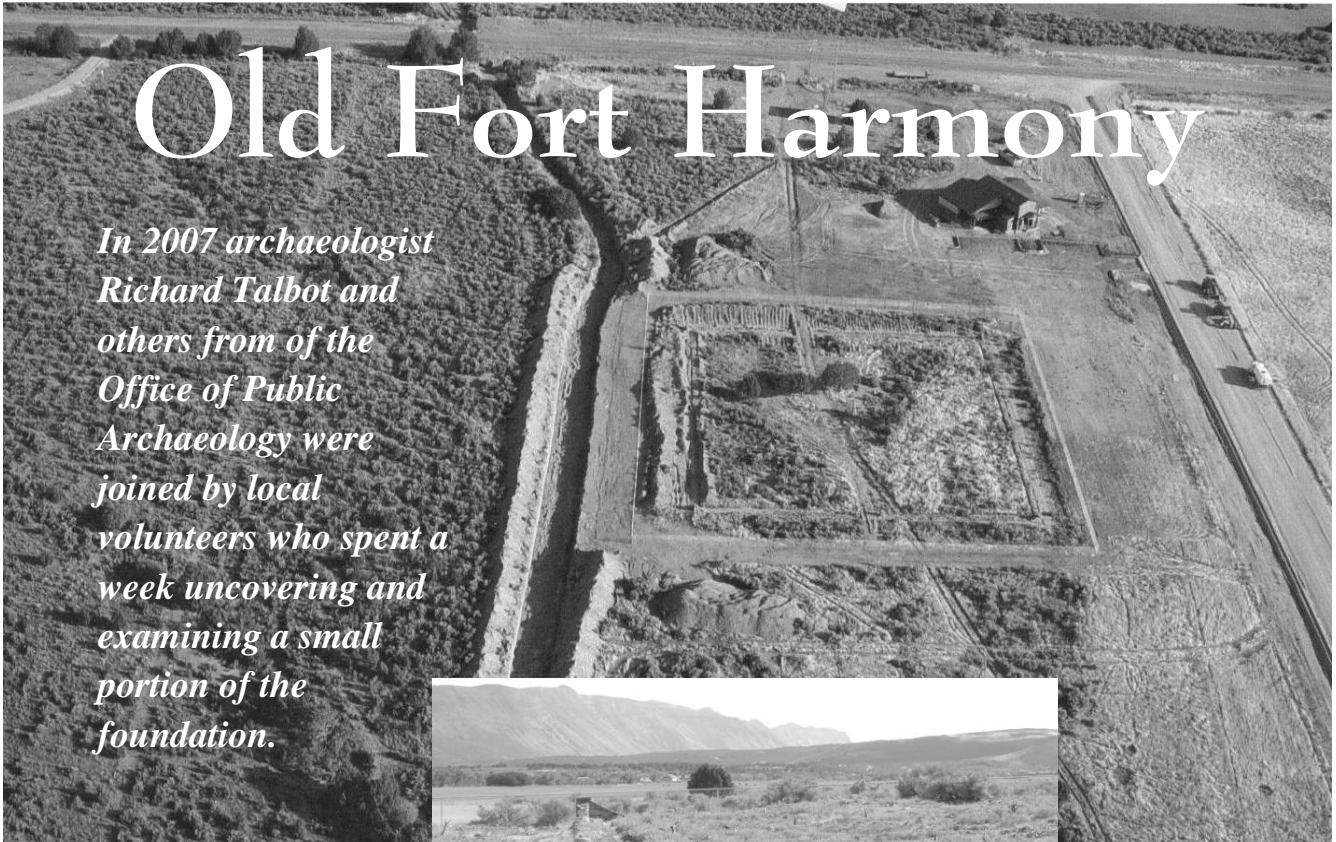


Old Fort Harmony

In 2007 archaeologist Richard Talbot and others from the Office of Public Archaeology were joined by local volunteers who spent a week uncovering and examining a small portion of the foundation.



Above: Aerial view of the restoration site. Far left: Stunning view of the Kolob Fingers from Fort Harmony. Left: Part of the footings and the corner markers.



In 1852 Brigham Young sent John D. Lee and a party of men from Parowan south to a place called Sumato by the local Paiutes. Here they built the first wooden fort. Brigham Young however felt a better spot would be about four miles further north and in 1854 he and Parley P. Pratt marked the corners at the new location and laid out what would become Fort Harmony.

Harmony became the birthplace of Washington County as it served as the county seat from 1856 to 1859. It also served as the headquarters for the Southern Indian Mission.

An earthquake severely damaged the adobe walls of the fort in 1860 and a deluge of rain continued to weaken the structure. The residents moved up to the Indian Mission Farm which eventually became known as New Harmony.

The land was owned by the Schmutz family for many years, who donated the land in 2006 to Washington County with the stipulation that they fence the site and protect it. During the cleaning some of the original footings were uncovered and nearly destroyed, but locals stepped in and eventually arranged for archaeological digs to be conducted. Although much remains to be done, much history has already been discovered. In future years the Fort Harmony Historical Society hopes to establish a visitors center with a garden and museum. 🌱